


## Become a Public Access TV Grant Producer

 Howard County has over 70,000 cable television households that receive public access programs on Comcast Cable Channel 73.

Community programming grants are funds set aside by Howard County Government for use by Howard County Residents to produce television programs on the public access channel. These funds are designed to defray the cost of television production.

The television equipment, facilities and training, as well as the broadcast time for completed programs, are provided free of charge by Comcast to the public access producers.

Persons 18 years or older who live in Howard County can apply for a community programming grant to become a public access television producer. The grants are awarded to individual residents only, and are not available to organizations, businesses, community groups, associations or county agencies.

Grants are processed twice each year in March-April and September-October. Call 410-313-3318 for an application.

A Non-Grant production may begin at any time of the year. The training and equipment are free. The producer needs to purchase videotapes and pass the technical training.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Public Access Studio at 410-461-8098 if you have any technical questions, or wish to produce a program without grant assistance.


**OFFICE OF CABLE ADMINISTRATION**  
Department of Technology & Communications  
**Howard County Government**  
3450 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

# Community Programming Grants

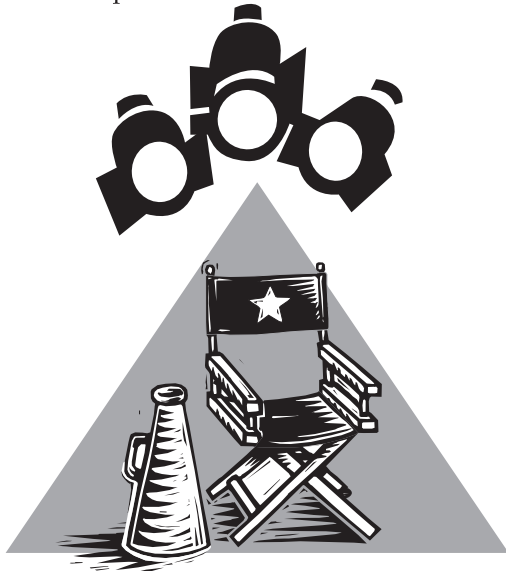


**Public  
Access**  **TV**  
*Your View of the Community*


## What Are Community Programming Grants?

 Community Programming Grants are funds set aside by Howard County Government for use by local citizens who are creating programs for Public Access Television in Howard County. This money is designed to help offset the incidental expenses that are associated with the production of a television program or series.


The equipment and facilities (studio and editing) are provided free of charge to Public Access producers, as is the broadcast time for the completed program. However, certain costs remain, such as blank tape, administrative expenses including copying, telephone and perhaps some travel. The Grant program provides money to absorb these expenses.



## Who Can Apply?

 Any person over the age of 18 who lives in Howard County can apply for a Community Programming Grant. Organizations, businesses or groups may not apply, nor may anyone living outside the County.

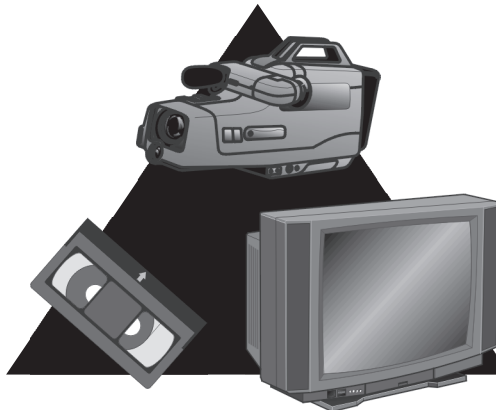
## What Does The "Producer" Have To Do?

 If the Grant is awarded, the applicant will then become the "Producer-of-Record" for the project, and must be willing to assume all responsibilities as specified in the contract that will be signed between the County government and the Producer.


The Producer will have to maintain complete financial records of all money received and all expenditures, and will be completely responsible for the successful completion of the project.

The Producer must provide his/her own volunteer crew, as no personnel are available from the County or the cable company. The crew need not be experienced in video production, although it is certainly helpful if some of them are. The cable company will require that ALL crew members go through their training program, regardless of previous experience.

As far as production goes, the Producer is responsible for scheduling everything, selecting crew members, arranging for locations, studio sessions, creating the program and working with whomever is doing the writing, acting and/or directing of the show. The Producer may also be the director. Sometimes the Producer is the "talent", that is, the person who is "on camera" as well.




## What Costs Will The Grant Cover?

 Money awarded in the Grant will pay for blank videotape, postage, copying, telephone, and mileage associated with the production of the program.

The grant will NOT pay for salaries, per diem rates, honoraria or personnel fees of any kind, equipment, sets, props, make-up, costumes, overnight travel, or most outside production services.

While there are no specified limits to the amount of a particular grant, the restrictions listed above limit most grants to less than \$1000. Higher amounts are occasionally awarded, depending on the particular project, but this is rare. Since the crew is volunteer and the expensive equipment is provided free, the remaining expenses are generally small.

## What Kinds Of Programs Get Grants?

 Many different kinds of programs have been funded with Community Programming Grants: Talk shows, travel programs, exercise shows, talent shows, dramas, educational programs, documentaries, poetry programs, news magazine shows. There have been programs on seniors, safety, fishing, sports, decorating - just about anything you can think of.

Grants will NOT be awarded to programs that seek to promote any kind of business, service or individual, non-profit or otherwise. There can be no solicitation of any kind. There can be no specific religious or political point of view espoused, and obviously, no lewd or indecent content.

It is not possible to do "live" shows, weekly or even monthly shows, shows that require an audience, or call-in programs. Producers will be limited by equipment and time availability to two to four programs in a one-year period.

Programs that are tied to current events are also discouraged as shows may be on the air for as long as two years, and would quickly become dated.